36

The CASE

Of the Brewers, Inn-keepers, and Victualers; touching the Grievances of ſeveral Clauſes, contained in ſeveral Acts of Parliament for Exciſe.

Firſt. IN an Act made the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, Intituled; *An Act for laying ſeveral Duties upon Low Wines or Spirits of the Firſt Extraction, and for preventing the Frauds and Abuſes of Brewers, Diſtillers, and other Perſons, chargeable with the Duties of Exciſe:* There is a Clauſe that obliges all Brewers, Inn-keepers, and Victualers, brewing party Guiles to keep their Strong Beer in their Tuns until their Small Beer be all carried out, and delivered upon pain of being charged for the whole Guile as Strong Beer.

This is a hardſhip the Brewers are not able to undergo, for they cannot always have Cuſtomers to take off all their Small Beer before their Strong is ready to cleanſe; and then they muſt be forced either to keep the Strong Beer in the Tuns till it be ſpoiled, or to throw the Small Beer that remains into the Gutter, or elſe pay for the whole Guile as Strong Beer.

The Brewers of *Rocheſter* and *Chatham*, and other Sea-port Towns ſell great Quantities of Small Beer to the King: And if the Agents for Victualling have not conveniency to receive the ſame juſt as it is brewed, (as very often they have not;) then muſt all the Strong of that Guile be kept till it be ſpoiled, or if they cleanſe any of it then the Brewers muſt pay for all the Small, as Strong.

That the Brewers are now forced to deliver out their Small Beer before it is fully brewed and worked, which makes it very unwholſome.

That the poor Inn-keepers and Victualers in the Country have no opportunity to ſell their Small Beer, but uſed to utter the ſame in their own Houſes. But as this Clauſe is, they muſt be forced to throw it away; for they cannot keep any in their Houſe either for their Servants, or Family, or Soldiers when they are quartered upon them, but all muſt live upon the Strong.

This Clauſe very much leſſens the King's Duty of Exciſe: For many times when the Brewers could ſell their Strong Beer, they cannot ſell their Small; and therefore they are forced to forbear brewing for ſome time, and then many private Families fall to brewing their own Beer, and ſo the King looſes that Duty.

See 15 Car. 2d. 7, & 8. Will. Tertii. 'Tis ſuppoſed the Intent of this Clauſe was to prevent mingling the Strong and Small after 'twas Gauged: But ſure there are ſo good Proviſions made by the Acts for Exciſe, and ſuch ſevere Penalties therein, that (without this unreaſonable Clauſe) no Brewer can, or will dare venture to do it.

Secondly. In an Act made in the Firſt Year of this King, and the late Queen *Mary* (of ever bleſſed Memory) Intituled; *An Act for an Additional Duty of Exciſe upon Beer, Ale, and other Liquors.* It is declared that Thirty four Gallons ſhall be charged upon all Brewers (except the Brewers within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and Weekly Bills of Mortality) for a Barrel: And that all Brewers (except as aforeſaid) ſhall be allowed for Leakage, *&c.* Two Barrels and a Half.

This is an hardſhip upon the Brewers, alſo in the Country, that brew no Ale, that they muſt ſell Thirty ſix Gallons for a Barrel to their Cuſtomers, and be allowed but Thirty four Gallons in their Exciſe.

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THE CASE of the Brewers OF *Rocheſter* and *Chatham.*